

PATENT
450100-02716**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith. The present After-Final Amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application and does not require further search.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-21 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 2, 4-6 and 12-21, which are independent, are hereby amended. It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, were in full compliance with the requirements 35 U.S.C. §112. Support for this amendment is provided throughout the Specification as originally filed. No new matter has been introduced by this amendment. Changes to claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which the Applicants are entitled.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(b)¹

Claims 1-8 and 10-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,181,870 to Okada, et al.

Independent claim 1 now recites, *inter alia*:

"...whereby said second data unit is adapted to be read from said record medium in its entirety without having to perform a jump between non-successive locations on said record medium." (emphasis added)

¹ While the Office Action indicates that the rejection is under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), Applicants submit that Okada is not 102(b) prior art, since it did not issue more than one year before Applicants' filing date. Therefore, Applicants assume the Office Action meant the rejection to be under 102(e).

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As understood by Applicants, U.S. Patent No. 6,181,870 to Okada, et al. (hereinafter, merely "Okada") relates to an optical disc having an area for storing original and user chain information specifying at least part of a video object stored on the disc, and a computer program and recording apparatus for recording and editing the chain information.

Applicants submit that nothing has been found in Okada that would disclose or suggest the above-identified features of claim 1. Specifically, Applicants submit that Okada does not teach or suggest that the second data unit can be read from said record medium in its entirety without having to perform a jump between non-successive locations on said record medium, as disclosed in independent claim 1.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is patentable.

For reason similar, or somewhat similar, to those described above, independent claims 2, 4-6 and 12-21 are also believed to be patentable.

III. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims in this application are each dependent on a dependent claim discussed above, and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosures in the cited reference, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the reference, providing the basis for a contrary view.

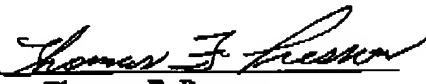
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Applicants submit that this After-Final Amendment does not require further search and that all of the claims are in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request entry of this After-Final Amendment and early passage to issue of the present application.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,
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